

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0049

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0030

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING
OF MAY 31, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN ITS MAY 31 MEETING, THE AD HOC GROUP REVIEWED US DRAFT OF TALKING POINTS FOR JUNE 4 INFORMAL SESSION WITH EAST. DISCUSSION CONCENTRATED ON OBJECTIONS OF BELGIAN ACTING REP (WILLOT) TO USE OF BOTH FIXED PERIOD AND REVIEW PROVISIONS IN SAME INFORMAL IN VIEW OF COUNCIL SUGGESTION THAT NEW POINTS BE DEVELOPED SERIATIM. GROUP ULTIMATELY AGREED TO USE FIXED PERIOD FORMULATION ONLY IN RESPONSE TO EASTERN QUESTION. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER BELGIAN OBJECTIONS TO EXPLICIT MENTION OF WITHDRAWAL FROM PHASE ONE AGREEMENT AS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCE OF REVIEW PROVISION, GROUP AGREED ON SOMEWHAT MODIFIED FORMULATION, AGAIN FOR CONTINGENCY USE. WITH THESE AND

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OTHER MINOR CHANGES GROUP APPROVED TALKING POINTS. END SUMMARY.

2. CHAIRMAN (ITALIAN REP CAGIATI) OPENED SESSION BY ASKING SYG REP (COHEN) TO READ CABLE FROM ASSISTANT SEC GEN (KASTL) CONCERNING WORKING GROUP REPORT TO AHG ON DATA. MESSAGE POINTED OUT THAT SPC WAS TRANSMITTING WORKING GROUP'S COVER NOTE AND ANNEX A ONLY. THE CABLE ALSO STATED THAT THE MATERIAL WAS BEING TRANSMITTED TO THE AHG FOR INFORMATION ONLY, THAT NO PART WAS TO BE USED WITH THE EAST, AND THAT THERE WAS NO SPC OR COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE MATERIAL. CABLE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT SPC WOULD CONTINUE TO DEBATE ISSUES SURROUNDING USE OF DATA.

3. US DEL INTRODUCED DRAFT TALKING POINTS FOR JUNE 4 INFORMAL SESSION WITH EAST. AFTER GROUP HAD APPROVED VARIOUS MINOR EDITORIAL CHANGES IN TEXT, BELGIAN ACTING REP (WILLOT) SUGGESTED THAT USE IN ONE INFORMAL SESSION OF BOTH ADDITIONAL ALLIED PROPOSALS, I.E., THAT OF FIXED PERIOD OF TIME BETWEEN PHASES, AND REVIEW PROVISION AS SUGGESTED IN DRAFT TALKING POINTS, WENT BEYOND COUNCIL GUIDANCE TO DEVELOP POINTS SERIATIM. HE PREFERRED THAT FIXED PERIOD PROVISION BE RESERVED FOR LATER USE.

4. UK REP (ROSE) RECALLED THAT GROUP HAD PREVIOUSLY AGREED DURING WILLOT'S ABSENCE IN BRUSSELS TO DEVELOP ALL THREE NEW POINTS IN THREE OR FOUR INFORMAL SESSIONS. WEST COULD THEN SAY THAT THIS COMPLETED PRESENTATION OF NEW WESTERN POINTS AND PRESURE EAST FOR RESPONSE. A MORE GRADUAL APPROACH, SAID UK REP, COULD CAUSE EASTERN SIDE TO THINK THAT MORE WAS COMING.

5. FRG REP (BEHREND) AGREED, SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF PRESENTING A NEW CONCESSION WITH EACH NEW INFORMAL MEETING. FRG REP ADDED THAT HE SYMPATHIZED WITH BELGIAN ACTING REP BUT THAT WHAT ALLIES COULD NOW ADD ON FIXED PERIOD COULD NOT STAND ON ITS OWN AS THE SUBJECT OF A WHOLE INFORMAL SESSION, SINCE COUNCIL GUIDANCE DID NOT PERMIT DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THIS POINT. IT WOULD BE BETTER USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER POINTS.

6. BELGIAN ACTING REP OBJECTED THAT FORMULA USED TO INTRODUCE FIXED PERIOD OF TIME BETWEEN PHASES AS DESCRIBED IN TALKING POINTS PAPER DID NOT REALLY ANSWER THE QUESTION OF THE EASTERN SIDE, WHICH WAS CONCERNED OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF THE ALLIES

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DRAWING OUT PHASE TWO INDEFINITELY. THERE WAS NO NEED TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE SUCH AS THAT IN DRAFT TALKING POINTS WHICH RELATED FIXED PERIOD OF TIME TO TIME NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE ONE WITHDRAWALS. CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SECTION CONTAINED A CONTINGENCY REPLY TO AN EASTERN QUESTION ON THIS POINT. BELGIAN ACTING REP FINALLY AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO USE THIS FORMULA IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION.

7. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF GROUP EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER VAGUENESS OF WORDING CONCERNING FIXED PERIOD OF TIME PROVISION. BELGIAN ACTING REP NOTED THAT UNTIL PHASE ONE IS NEGOTIATED, NO ONE WOULD KNOW WHEN THE AGREEMENT WOULD START. THIS, PLUS THE UNCERTAINTIES CONCERNING THE LENGTH OF THE RATIFICATION PROCESS, MADE THE PERIOD OF TIME BETWEEN PHASES SUBJECT TO VARYING INTER-

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0030

FROM US REP MBFR

PRETATIONS. FRG REP ATTRIBUTED THE VAGUENESS OF THE WORDING TO THE FACT THAT IT WAS DOUBTLESS A COMPROMISE DERIVING FROM DIS-AGREEMENT AMONG THE NATO ALLIES. HE AGREED THAT IT COULD NOT STAND ON ITS OWN AS A REAL CONCESSION, BUT THAT IF IT WERE DROPPED NOW, IT COULD NOT BE REINTRODUCED LATER AS A SEPARATE POINT. IT COULD ONLY BE USED IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE EAST.

8. US DEP REP SUPPORTED FRG REP'S VIEW AND OBSERVED THAT FIXED PERIOD OF TIME WAS NOT A STRONG POINT; ITS ONLY UTILITY WAS AS

A SIGNAL THAT THE WEST WOULD NOT DRAG OUT THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE PHASES. IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE IN HANDLING THIS POINT TO OPEN DOOR FOR A DISCUSSION OF PHASED IMPLEMENTATION, WHICH WOULD BE MESSY AND WOULD GIVE THE EAST A HOLD OVER PHASE TWO. ALLIES SHOULD THEREFORE INTRODUCE POINT IN BRIEF FORM NOW IN ORDER TO SUSPEND DISCUSSION OF PHASING AND ALSO TO AVOID IMPRESSION THAT

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ALLIES HAVE MORE TO OFFER. THIS MIGHT HELP MOVE THE EAST TO COME FORWARD WITH ANY CONCESSIONS WHICH THEY MAY FEEL UNDER TIME PRESSURE TO INTRODUCE.

9. BELGIAN ACTING REP, NOTED CONSENSUS THAT THE POINT WAS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND ON ITS OWN IN AN INFORMAL SESSION, SUGGESTED THAT IT BE HELD IN RESERVE AS A CONTINGENCY REPLY TO AN EASTERN QUESTION. THIS WAS AGREED.

10. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO CONTINGENCY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AND BELGIAN ACTING REP EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION, "WOULD THE REVIEW PROVISION ALLOW FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PHASE ONE AGREEMENT?" WAS TOO EXPLICIT IN SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING WITHDRAWAL AS ONE OF THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF A REVIEW. US REP REPLIED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT ITS WITHDRAWAL POSSIBILITY IS IMPLICIT AND ALLIED FREEZE OFFER MUST BE LIMITED AS TO DURATION. THE EAST HAS ALREADY OBJECTED TO THE FACT THAT THE ALLIED NON-INCREASE PROVISION IS LIMITED IN TIME, WHILE THE PROVISIONS OF THE PHASE ONE REDUCTION ARE NOT. THEREFORE, THE ALLIES MUST BE ABLE TO ANSWER THAT THERE WOULD BE A REVIEW PROVISION, INHERENT IN WHICH IS THE RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL. ALLIES MUST BE PREPARED TO REPLY TO THE QUESTION WHETHER THE AGREEMENT WOULD ALLOW FOR WITHDRAWAL. IN RESPONSE TO RENEWED BELGIAN OBJECTIONS, GROUP AGREED TO FORMULA FOR USE IN REPLY TO QUESTION: "THEORETICALLY, A DECISION TO WITHDRAW COULD BE ONE POSSIBLE CONCLUSION."

11. NETHERLANDS ACTING REP (VON BALLUSECK) RESERVED HIS POSITION ON THE FORMULATION FOR CONTINGENCY REPLY ON WITHDRAWAL SAYING THAT HIS DELEGATION HAD ASKED INSTRUCTIONS ON THESE POINTS AND REPLY HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVED.

12. CHAIRMAN CONCLUDED SESSION BY NAMING US REP AND DEP REP AND UK AND BELGIAN REPS AS ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES AT NEXT INFORMAL SESSION.

13. NEXT AHG MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 5. RESOR

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